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March 23, 2010

COMMISSION

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W. Robert Harrell

Nancy L. Banov, M.Ed.

Deborah C. McPherson

The Honorable Daniel T. "Dan" Cooper
South Carolina House of Representatives
525 Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Cooper:

Thank you very much for the many hours of time you gave to the budget debate last week. We appreciate your service to South Carolina.

The budget writing responsibility you have as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee is challenging each year, but no previous year compares with the hurdles and obstacles you faced this year. When DDSN and the state were in the precarious situation of failing to meet ARRA compliance, you understood the problem. We appreciate that and your personal involvement to resolve that problem. Your leadership not only aided individuals served by DDSN, but helped thousands of others receiving services from a variety of agencies.

On behalf of the 30,500 individuals and their families served by DDSN, we thank you. The services funded in the House budget plan will save lives, protect the health and safety of vulnerable children and adults, keep families intact, and allow family caregivers to remain employed. Each of these is best for the person with a disability, best for the family and most cost effective for the taxpayer.

We are especially grateful for the leadership shown by you and Representative Edge and your diligence to form a workable plan that enjoyed widespread support. Ways and Means staff members were professional and courteous throughout the process. Their responsiveness and close working relationship with DDSN staff is greatly appreciated.

DISTRICT I

P.O. Box 239
Clinton, SC 29325-5328
Phone: (864) 938-3497

Midlands Center - Phone: 803/935-7500
Whitten Center - Phone: 864/833-2733

9995 Miles Jamison Road
Summerville, SC 29485
Phone: 843/832-5576

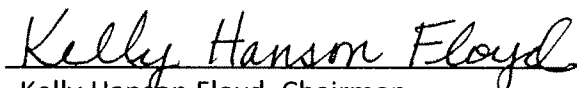
DISTRICT II


Coastal Center - Phone: 843/873-5750
Pee Dee Center - Phone: 843/664-2600
Saleeby Center - Phone: 843/332-4104

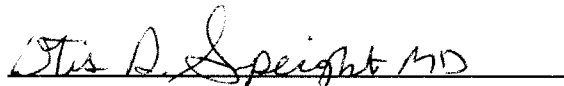
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Again, thank you for your leadership and for working with your colleagues to help people served by DDSN and so many others in our state. We understand that serious economic challenges still lie ahead of us. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you to help our most vulnerable citizens and their families.

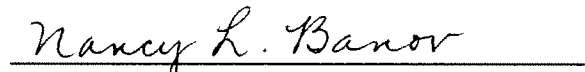
Sincerely,

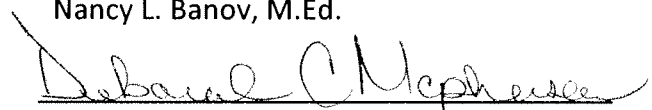

Kelly Hanson Floyd, Chairman

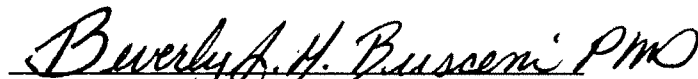

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